

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (original) Oil extracted from the seeds of *Momordica charantia L.*, useful as anti-inflammatory, anti-arthritis, vasculodilatory and wound healing agent, said oil comprising essentially of:

Capric acid	0.7-1.2% by wt.
Lauric acid	0.6-1% by wt.
Palmitic acid	4.2-5.0% by wt.
Stearic acid	59-62% by wt.
Oleic acid	13-15% by wt.
Archidic acid	3-5% by wt.
Linoleic acid	8-10% by wt.
Other undetected minor acids	6-8% by wt.

2. (currently amended) Oil as claimed in claim 1 wherein the preferred range of the ingredients of the oil is as under:

Capric acid	0.9% by wt.
Lauric acid	0.8% by wt.
Palmitic acid	4.2% by wt.
Stearic acid	60.90% by wt.
Oleic acid	13.30% by wt.
Archidic acid	3.20% by wt.
Linoleic acid	9.80% by wt.
Other minor undetected minor acids	6.90% by wt.

3. (currently amended) A novel oil composition comprising:

oil extracted from the seeds of <i>Momordica charantia L.</i> ,	70 to 80% by wt.
one or more vegetable oils,	15 to 25% by wt.
fragrance oil	3% by wt.
essential oil	1% by wt.
and at least one perfume component	2% by wt.

4. (currently amended) [[An]]The oil composition as claimed in claim 3 wherein the vegetable oil is selected from the group consisting of: sesame oil, coconut oil, groundnut oil, olive oil, palm oil and other foodgrade oil.

5. (currently amended) [[An]]The oil composition as claimed in claim 3 wherein the essential oil is selected from the group consisting of: rose oil, sandalwood oil, geranium oil [[or]]and lavender oil.

6. (currently amended) [[An]]The oil composition as claimed in claim 3 wherein the composition is in physical forms selected from the group consisting of: cream, gel, lotion, capsule [[or]]and combinations thereof.

7. (currently amended) [[An]]The oil composition as claimed in claim 3 wherein the composition is prepared by mixing the oil extracted from *Momordica charantia L.* with suitable pharmaceutically acceptable carriers.

8. (original) A process for the extraction of oil from the seeds of *Momordica charantia L.*, comprising the steps of :

- (i) grinding dry seeds to a fine powder in a suitable mill,
- (ii) treating the pulverized seeds with a mixture of non- polar solvents,

- (iii) allowing the mixture to stand for 48 hours at room temperature so that the oil separates out,
- (iv) collecting the oil from the supernatant layer using a separating funnel,
- (v) refluxing the mixture obtained in step (iv) with any non-polar solvent to remove the last traces of oil,
- (vi) purifying the oil by adding 2-5% zinc acetate dissolved in water to precipitate the salts with impurities from the oil, and
- (vii) analysis of the oil extracted by gas liquid chromatography.

9. (currently amended) [[A]]The process as claimed in claim 8 wherein the seeds of *Momordica charantia L.*, are split, washed thoroughly with water 2-3 times to render the seeds substantially free from impurities and dried under vacuum before said grinding.

10. (currently amended) [[A]]The process as claimed in claim 8 wherein the non-polar solvent comprises a mixture of acetone with an aromatic or aliphatic hydrocarbon selected from the group consisting of benzene, hexane, petroleum ether and ethyl ether.

11. (currently amended) [[A]]The process as claimed in claim 10 wherein the ratio of the aliphatic or aromatic hydrocarbon in the non-polar solvent mixture is 2:1.

12. (currently amended) ~~Use of an oil extracted from *Momordica charantia L* or its composition for treatment of inflammation, arthritis, vasculodilation and wounds in a patient body, by A method of treating a disease or condition in a patient body, comprising applying an oil extracted from *Momordica charantia L*, or its composition the oil or composition as claimed in claims 1 to 7, on [[the]]an affected area of the patient body for a period of about six to twenty weeks, wherein the disease or condition is selected from the group consisting of: inflammation, arthritis, vasculodilation and wounds.~~